4.0 THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the Proposed Resource Management Plan (Proposed RMP) for the King Range National Conservation Area. The Proposed RMP is the Agency Preferred Alternative from the Draft RMP, with changes reflecting public comment, collaboration during the preparation of this Proposed RMP, and BLM's internal comments and analysis of the entire Draft RMP. Please see the introduction to Chapter 3 in the Draft RMP for an explanation of how the alternatives in that document were developed.

4.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Proposed RMP was developed based on an analysis of the environmental impacts of the alternatives in the Draft RMP; issues raised throughout the planning process; how each alternative resolves existing issues on planning for public lands; public input and scoping throughout the process; and laws, regulations, and BLM Manuals and other guidance. The Proposed RMP was developed by an interdisciplinary team and represents the mix and variety of actions that best resolve the issues and management concerns that drove the planning process. All actions proposed under the Proposed RMP would comply with current applicable state and federal regulations, standards, and policies. In certain instances, laws, regulations, or policies would require some management actions to receive overriding priority in conflict resolution, such as protection of threatened and endangered species, or historical or archaeological resources.

4.3 MANAGEMENT ZONES

In order to implement the management mandate for the KRNCA and to meet differing public needs, the planning area has been divided into three management zones. These zones represent a consolidation, revision, and simplification of the seven original zones in the 1974 King Range Management Program. All three of the zones allow multiple uses, but like the original zones, each emphasizes different primary resource values to be conserved and/or allowable uses available in various parts of the planning area. All public lands within the planning area are assigned to one of the three zones: Backcountry, Frontcountry, or Residential. Throughout the Proposed RMP, some goals and actions are applied to all zones, while others are zone-specific. The zones are described in more detail below, and are depicted in Figure 4-1.

4.3.1 Backcountry Zone

The Backcountry Zone is the largest of the zones and includes the western coastal slope of the King Range, the Chemise Mountain area, and portions of the Honeydew and Squaw Creek watersheds. This zone covers 38,833 acres. It is essentially roadless, with a primary management goal focused on recognizing and managing this unique and primitive undeveloped coastal area and its wilderness characteristics. This zone is the core of the KRNCA and Lost Coast, providing a primary use of wildland recreation while protecting resources such as old-growth forests, old-growth forest dependent species,

and open coastal grasslands. This environmental setting offers the greatest opportunity for solitude and challenge. Any lands within the planning area designated by Congress as wilderness would be incorporated into this zone.

Management activities would follow the "minimal-tool" concept to maintain and restore the area to a natural functioning ecosystem. Under this approach, the BLM would achieve resource management objectives with hand tools, except in emergency situations or where motorized equipment is determined through careful analysis to be the minimum necessary tool (e.g. for fire suppression where communities are threatened, or maintenance of the historic Punta Gorda Lighthouse). Appropriate public use would include non-motorized activities with no facilities other than trails and a few primitive facilities (e.g., signs, sanitary facilities) for resource protection.

4.3.2 Frontcountry Zone

The Frontcountry Zone covers 25,661 acres and forms an interface between the Backcountry Zone and surrounding private lands. It represents a broad mix of uses and tools for management. This is the zone where the most active resource restoration actions would occur, with key goals of developing a more natural vegetation mosaic in previously harvested forest stands, and improving watershed and fisheries health. Protection of private lands adjoining the KRNCA from wildfire risk would also be a primary focus. On-the-ground management activities would include forest stand improvement, fuels reduction work, fire break construction, or use of heavy equipment for watershed restoration. Public uses in the Frontcountry Zone would include an extensive array of activities, including special forest products harvesting, fuelwood cutting (in specific locations), mountain biking, and camping in existing developed facilities.

Most BLM roads and facilities are located in the southern and central parts of the Frontcountry Zone, many functioning as "staging areas" to provide access for visitors into the backcountry. Despite the concentration of roads and facilities in the southern part of this zone, many parts of the Frontcountry Zone are remote and contain minimal roads and facility developments. Examples are the areas near Cooskie Peak and Fourmile Creek in the northern part of the KRNCA. These lands were incorporated into this zone primarily because of their level of historic use and interface with surrounding private lands, and the need to allow for more intensive fuels management and forest restoration. No additional major public use facility developments (except trails) are proposed for these northern parts of the Frontcountry Zone under this plan.

Much of the Backcountry Zone and a small area in the northern part of the Frontcountry Zone (non-beach lands from Fourmile Creek north to the Mattole Estuary) are within the King Range Wilderness Study Area. These areas would be managed under the BLM's *Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review* until Congress determines whether or not to designate them as Wilderness. If Congress releases all or a portion of these lands from further Wilderness consideration, they would be managed under the objectives of the respective management zones.

4.3.3 Residential Zone

This 2,944 acre zone represents the town of Shelter Cove, which is mostly private land except for approximately 180 acres of beachfront lots and coastal greenspace managed by the BLM. The KRNCA's most highly developed recreation sites are in this zone, and the primary uses and management goals focus on developed recreation and resource protection. The Residential Zone also represents a place to direct visitors who want to experience the grandeur and rugged nature of the Lost Coast without the challenge of experiencing more remote locations in the Frontcountry and Backcountry Zones.

4.4 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR EACH RESOURCE

The remainder of this chapter outlines management direction for the KRNCA planning area by resource program. Each section contains a short introduction describing the importance and context of the program (see Chapter 3 for more in-depth descriptions). Each section then outlines the management program arranged in the following hierarchy for each resource or resource use:

Goals provide a broad overall vision or level of direction for management of resources and uses. They are usually not quantifiable.

Objectives and Standards provide more specific direction to meet certain aspects of a goal:

- **Objectives** identify specific desired conditions or outcomes for resources and uses. They may have established time frames, as appropriate, for achievement and are usually quantifiable and measurable, either as they are written, or after they are refined in implementation plans and through more specific data. An example of a King Range Proposed RMP objective is: "Forest vegetation would be maintained and developed for a distribution of approximately sixty percent late successional or old-growth stands, twenty percent mid-mature stands, and twenty percent early successional stands."
- **Standards** (and Guidelines) are specific types of objectives that contain descriptions of physical social and biological conditions or the degree of function required for healthy, sustainable resources or uses. Typically, standards are developed at a regional, statewide, or national level using the best available science, and are then adopted into local plans. BLM policy requires that land health standards be incorporated into all new land use plans. Standards from several sources have been incorporated into the King Range RMP including the California Rangeland Health Standards, and Northwest Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. Some local "Implementation Guidelines" are also included. These all would function as sideboards to guide implementation of specific plan actions and allowable uses.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses are the most specific level of direction provided in the RMP process:

- **Management Actions needed to achieve goals, standards, and objectives (desired outcomes):** RMPs identify some of the actions that the BLM and management partners would need to take to achieve plan goals, objectives and standards, including actions to restore or protect land health. These actions include proactive measures (e.g., measures that would be taken to enhance watershed function and condition), as well as measures or criteria that would

be applied to guide day-to-day activities occurring on public land. Because this RMP is intended to provide a broad level of land management direction, specific actions are not tied to all of the objectives in the plan. Additional actions will be determined through the development of implementation (activity) level plans, or other more specific environmental and planning analysis.

- **Allowable uses**, also called land use allocations, identify lands where particular uses are allowed, including any restrictions that may be needed to meet corresponding goals, standards, and objectives. RMPs also identify lands where specific uses are excluded to protect resource values. Certain lands may be open or closed to specific uses based on legislative, regulatory, or policy requirements or criteria to protect sensitive resource values. The RMP sets the stage for identifying site-specific resource use levels. Site-specific use levels are normally identified during subsequent implementation planning or the permit authorization process. The BLM may also establish criteria in the RMP to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for activities during plan implementation. For example, the King Range Proposed RMP identifies criteria for determining recreation carrying capacities for the backcountry zone in future implementation planning.

Additional Specific Types of Management Direction: The Proposed RMP also provides management direction for several specific categories of management, including:

- **Establishment of administrative designations** such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), recommended proposed withdrawals, and findings of suitability for Congressional designations such as wild and scenic rivers.
- **Land tenure decisions** are those decisions that identify lands for retention (see 43 CFR 2400), proposed disposal, or acquisition (based on acquisition criteria). Section 102(a)(1) of FLPMA requires that BLM-managed lands be retained in Federal ownership unless BLM determines through the land use planning process that disposal of a particular parcel would serve the national interest (43 U.S.C. 1701). Land tenure decisions must achieve the goals, standards, and objectives outlined in the land use plan.

Some sections of the plan also contain a brief rationale to further clarify or summarize the information contained in the Affected Environment Chapter (Chapter 3) that led to certain plan decisions. Finally, several sections contain implementation guidelines to provide resource protection for on-the-ground management projects. The remainder of this chapter provides an overview of proposed management of specific resources and resource uses of the KRNCA planning area.

4.5 VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)

4.5.1 Introduction

The visual quality of the rugged coastline along the King Range is one of the key attributes that attracts both residents and visitors to the area. Protection of these scenic qualities was also an objective that led to designation of the area as a National Conservation Area. Management of the KRNCA's visual resources will utilize the BLM's Visual Resource Management (VRM) classification system to ensure that

any development or changes in the scenic landscape maintain or enhance the overall viewshed qualities. The four VRM classes are described below:

Class 1: The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class allows for natural ecological changes and only very limited types of management activities and uses. Any contrasts with the natural landscape must be minimal and not attract attention.

Class II: The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities and uses can be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III: The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be moderate. Management activities and uses may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements of the predominant natural features of the landscape.

Class IV: The objective of this class is to allow for management activities and uses requiring major modifications to the natural landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. Management activities and uses may dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to mitigate the impacts of activities through careful location and repeating the visual elements of the landscape.

4.5.2 Area-Wide Management

Goal VRM 1: Protect and enhance the scenic qualities and visual integrity of the characteristic landscapes of the KRNCA through the application and implementation of the VRM Classification System.

Objective VRM 1.1: Complete visual contrast ratings for existing roads and facilities, and identify opportunities to reduce existing visual impacts through modifications (e.g., painting culverts, removing road berms, etc.).

Objective VRM 1.2: Ensure that coastal developments do not detract from the scenic integrity of the area by working with Humboldt County, the California Coastal Commission, and other agencies with management jurisdiction.

Goal VRM 2: Enhance opportunities for visitors and residents to view the outstanding scenic landscapes characteristic of the Lost Coast.

Objective VRM 2.1: Complete an inventory of existing and potential key scenic vista points along road and trail corridors within the KRNCA, and identify opportunities to improve these locations as overlooks and interpretive sites available to the public.

Goal VRM 3: Conduct management activities and complete developments in a manner that is sensitive to the visual qualities of the area and in compliance with applicable VRM classes.

Objective VRM 3.1: Complete visual contrast ratings for all proposed surface disturbing projects to ensure they meet VRM Class objectives.

Objective VRM 3.2: BLM-managed lands provide the primary public coastal open space in the Shelter Cove and Petrolia areas. Any new site developments on public lands would be located and designed so that they do not detract from coastal vistas. New facilities would be constructed so that no or minimal impacts occur to the immediate coastal viewshed.

4.5.3 Zone-Specific Management

Goal VRM 4: Protect and enhance the scenic qualities and visual integrity of each of the three zones through the application and implementation of the VRM Classification System.

Objective VRM 4.1 (Backcountry Zone): Manage all lands in the Backcountry Zone in compliance with the Class I classification.

Objective VRM 4.2 (Frontcountry Zone): All lands in the Frontcountry Zone north of the King Range Road and west of King Peak Road would be managed in compliance with VRM Class II , except for short-term impacts from silvicultural treatments (see VRM 4.3 below). The remainder of the Frontcountry Zone would be managed in compliance with VRM Class III. Frontcountry Zone lands within the King Range Wilderness Study Area would be managed in compliance with VRM Class I. If these lands are released by Congress from further consideration for wilderness, they would be managed under VRM Class II.

Objective VRM 4.3 (Frontcountry Zone): Silvicultural treatments, road removal, and other resource restoration activities in the Frontcountry Zone would be allowed to cause short and medium-term visual impacts that meet Class III objectives, but would be designed so that any long-term impacts (greater than five years from the treatment date) are at the Class II level.

Objective VRM 4.4 (Residential Zone): Manage all lands in the Residential Zone in compliance with the Class IV classification.

4.6 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES (CUL)

4.6.1 Introduction

The King Range contains substantial numbers of significant prehistoric sites and historic resources. Management efforts would reduce deterioration and damage from other uses, as well as encourage understanding through education, outreach, and interpretive programs. The proposed plan calls for

proactive management of sites through monitoring; Native American consultation and involvement; site stabilization, protection, and evaluation as research projects; and National Register nominations.

4.6.2 Preservation & Protection

Goal CUL 1: Manage public lands within the KRNCA to preserve, protect, and study cultural resources which represent at least 3,000 years of human occupation and use along the coastal strand, and more than 6,000 years for the interior.

Objective CUL 1.1: Develop cooperative efforts and formal agreements with educational institutions, students, tribes, volunteers from the public, and interested private consultants for scientific studies, educational opportunities, and enhanced management of cultural resources in the KRNCA.

Objective CUL 1.2: Prevent human-caused disturbance or damage to cultural resources by developing educational and interpretive outreach programs.

Management Actions

CUL 1.2.1: Encourage educational and interpretive efforts, signs, tours, and outreach where opportunities exist and no harm would occur to the cultural resources within the King Range.

Objective CUL 1.3: Continue cultural resources management and monitoring using the BLM Manual 8100 Series, existing laws, regulations, and policy.

Objective CUL 1.4: Build upon existing historic and prehistoric overviews of the King Range to include the larger regional perspective and interior areas.

Management Actions

CUL 1.4.1: Update the KRNCA Cultural Resources Management Plan and the regional cultural overview for the King Range and surrounding areas.

CUL 1.4.2: Implement a proactive program in the Frontcountry Zone and inland portions of the Backcountry Zone whereby Class III archaeological reconnaissance (100% survey) of a certain acreage of unsurveyed lands are undertaken each year,

CUL 1.4.3: Prepare and submit nominations for the National Register of Historic Places for the KRNCA Archaeological District and the KRNCA Historic Ranching District.

4.6.3 Cultural Resources and Multiple Use Management

Goal CUL 2: Integrate cultural resources management with other multiple uses within the KRNCA for the health of the land and other priority BLM initiatives for the benefit of the public.

Objective CUL 2.1: Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses through scheduled site monitoring, and by identifying priority geographic areas for new field inventories based upon a probability for unrecorded significant resources. (ARPA Sec. 14(a); NHPA Sec. 106, 110).

Management Actions

CUL 2.1.1: Complete stabilization projects for important historic structures, such as the Punta Gorda Lighthouse and the historic Russell Chambers Sheep Ranching Complex, and develop maintenance and implement schedules for their preservation.

CUL 2.1.2: Increase patrols and monitoring of cultural sites as funding allows.

CUL 2.1.3: Conduct archaeological inventories for any previously unsurveyed lands within the KRNCA (Section 106 surveys are mandatory), and develop and implement research programs with cooperating professionals for site stabilization and protection.

4.6.4 Tribal Rights and Coordination

Goal CUL 3: Continue to develop and maintain working relationships with appropriate tribal entities and Native American individuals; ensure that Native American burial grounds are protected from disturbance or harm; and re-establish traditional cultural practices through enhanced management of resources.

Objective CUL 3.1: Place emphasis on cooperative and volunteer outreach and greater collaboration with the Native American community. Include Native American participation in all aspects of cultural resource management within the King Range and adjacent areas.

Objective CUL 3.2: Continue primary coordination with the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria for government-to-government relations regarding Native American issues in the KRNCA. Continue participation in the Strategic Partnership Coalition with coastal tribes.

4.6.5 Allowable Uses (AU)

CUL AU1: FLPMA/ARPA Cultural Use Permits and Field Authorizations may be issued to qualified persons or institutions for research and study of cultural resources located within the King Range.

CUL AU2: Safeguards against incompatible land and resource uses may be imposed through withdrawals, stipulations on leases and permits, design requirements, and similar measures which are developed and recommended by an appropriately staffed interdisciplinary team.

CUL AU3: All authorizations for land and resource use would comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, consistent with and subject to the objectives established in the Plan for the proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest (NHPA Sec. 106, 101(d)(6), 110(a)(2)(E); National BLM-ACHP-NCSHPO Programmatic Agreement of March 1997; Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA); and other applicable laws and regulations).

CUL AU4: Field evaluations and use allocations of all cultural resources located within the King Range would continue under the monitoring program as set forth in BLM manual series 8100 and identified in the King Range Beach Cultural Resources Management Plan (1988).

CUL AU5: Per Washington, D.C. IB #2002-101, "All sections of the RMP that address the development of lands and resources would contain standard language stating that managers must not approve

proposed activities until compliance with Section 106 of NHPA has been completed and documented, including, where applicable, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized Indian tribes." This applies to all pending RMPs, RMP revisions, and RMP amendments including Time Sensitive Plans.

4.7 LANDS AND REALTY (LR)

4.7.1 Introduction

This section provides direction on how the BLM would implement various aspects of realty management. The section is divided into four parts: land ownership adjustment, water rights, public land use authorizations, and public access.

Based on direction from the 1970 King Range Act, the BLM pursued an extensive land acquisition program in the 1970s and '80s. Most of the lands within the boundary of the KRNCA are now under public ownership, and the acquisition program is much smaller in scale. Acquisition is still a valuable tool for facilitating efficient and beneficial management of the area. Acquisitions are achieved through donation, purchase, exchange, or other less-than fee title transactions. The Proposed RMP includes a method for prioritizing land and interest in land acquisitions.

Although the King Range is California's wettest location, dry summers result in low stream flows. The BLM has not focused attention in the past in securing water rights for streams in the King Range. However, public concerns regarding increasing use of area watersheds has made protection of in-stream flows for fisheries, wildlife and other resource values a priority goal for this plan. This section outlines guidelines for water rights acquisition.

The Proposed RMP also outlines stipulations and limitations to authorize land uses such as utility rights-of-way, use permits, etc. while protecting resource values. Finally, although most of the public land in the planning area has a high degree of public access, the plan identifies priorities for access improvement.

4.7.2 Land Acquisition

Goal LR 1: Acquire lands or interests in lands with high public resource values, and to meet public and community recreation, open space, and resource conservation needs.

Area-Wide Objectives

Objective LR 1.1: Section 5.5 of the King Range Act (P. L. 91-476) prohibits disposal of any lands within the KRNCA boundary, therefore, none of the lands within the planning area are considered for disposal.

Objective LR 1.2: Where National interests are served pursue exchanges as per Section 5.5 A of the King Range Act (P. L. 91-476) which states that the BLM may "exchange public lands or interests therein within the area for privately owned lands or interests therein also located within the area."

Objective LR 1.3: On lands where the BLM owns surface rights only, acquire mineral estate where feasible.

Zone-Specific Objectives

Backcountry and Frontcountry Zones:

Objective LR 1.4: Acquire lands and interests in lands to reduce fragmentation and/or enhance management in accordance with the King Range Act.

Objective LR 1.5: Acquire lands and interests in lands as directed under the authority of the King Range Act to consolidate lands to provide for more efficient management and meet the objectives and resource conditions of the management zones and designated use identified in the RMP.

Residential Zone:

Objective LR 1.6: Acquire lands and interest in lands within the Residential Zone as authorized under the King Range Act only after working with affected local governments and community associations.

Objective LR 1.7: Enhance visitor services, complement recreation opportunities, and resolve visitor capacity issues associated with growing public use and limited public land/infrastructure (parking, etc.) by acquiring appropriate properties within the Residential Zone.

Objective LR 1.8: Facilitate protection of greenbelts, riparian values, and water sources wherever possible by acquiring feasible properties within the Residential Zone.

Adjacent to/or Outside Boundary:

Objective LR 1.9: Acquire lands within acquisition project areas that have been identified by or coordinated with county governments and local community associations.

Objective LR 1.10: Work with willing sellers to acquire lands and interests in lands adjacent/outside the boundary of the KRNCA under the authority of FLPMA to:

- meet the objectives and resource conditions of the management zone adjacent to the acquisition lands;
- support and complement community and other citizen-based conservation initiatives;
- support implementation of open-space policy goals of the Humboldt County General Plan;
- provide habitat continuity for threatened, endangered, and other special status species; and
- provide watershed protection for the Mattole River and tributaries.

Objective LR 1.11: Manage any newly acquired lands adjoining the KRNCA consistent with the goals and objectives of the adjoining management zone. (Also see King Range Vicinity planning unit goals in the Arcata RMP.)

4.7.4 Water Rights

Goal LR 2: Acquire water rights necessary to ensure conservation of resource values in the planning area.

Objective LR 2.1: Secure water rights with all new acquisitions, and assert water rights on existing public lands.

Management Actions

LR 2.1.1: Document beneficial uses of water on public lands within the Mattole River watershed to establish BLM-water rights.

Rationale: It is unlikely that any of the coastal streams on the west slope of the King Range would become fully allocated since they lie almost completely on public land and have almost no development. As the regional population grows, there is a much higher likelihood that streams in the Mattole River watershed could become fully allocated.

LR 2.1.2: Apply for water rights in watersheds that appear likely to become fully allocated by the State Water Resources Control Board. Similarly, assert water rights necessary to protect resource values on public lands within watersheds that are adjudicated in the future.

Rationale: These actions would ensure that water-related resource values are protected, except in cases where other water right holders in the watershed have seniority. Parties with a proven senior water right would be unaffected by BLM assertion of water rights.

Objective LR 2.2: Ensure that in-stream flows are sufficient to protect water-related resource values such as fisheries, riparian habitat, and recreation needs within the planning area.

Management Actions

LR 2.2.1: Establish and maintain records of water demand for in-stream flows necessary to protect fisheries, riparian habitat, stock watering, micro-hydro power generation, and public drinking water supplies.

4.7.5 Land Use Authorizations

Goal LR 3: Meet public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits while meeting plan goals and minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.

Objective LR 3.1: Issue rights-of-way and permits on, over, or across public lands under the authority of FLPMA. Applications for rights-of-way and permits would be considered on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the CFR 2800/2900, and must meet the overall objectives and resource conditions of the specific management zone in which they are located.

Management Actions

LR 3.1.1: No new land use authorizations, including rights-of-way, permits, leases, or water rights-of-way would be issued in the Backcountry Zone. (An exception is private landowner access and legal rights associated with each private inholding, which will be addressed on an individual basis with each landowner and are not within the scope of this plan.)

LR 3.1.2: Land use authorizations, including rights-of-way, permits, and leases, would be considered in the Froncountry and Residential Zones on a case-by-case basis, consistent with local planning, California Coastal Commission regulations, and overall management goals of the zones.

LR 3.1.3: Utility rights-of-way will only be issued in the Froncountry and Residential Zones if proven non-detrimental to area resources, located within existing corridors and placed underground except where demonstrated to be infeasible. In these cases, the proponent would be required to implement measures to mitigate visual and other resource impacts.

LR 3.1.4: New water rights-of-way that propose to divert surface water on public lands within the Froncountry and Residential Zones would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and in all cases stipulate that surface water can only be diverted on public lands during the winter and spring months, when flows are adequate to support such use.

LR 3.1.5: Rights-of-way to appropriate groundwater from sources on public lands would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and approved only when the effects on stream temperatures or sedimentation are negligible.

Objective LR 3.2: Encourage conservation of water resources associated with BLM-granted water rights-of-way so there are no decreases in summer flow volumes on watersheds in the planning area, to protect in-stream flows, and provide maximum benefits of diverted water.

Management Actions

LR 3.2.1: All new water rights-of-way would include stipulations that require winter and spring storage of water for use during the dry summer and fall months, when stream flows and temperatures are at critical levels for sustaining fisheries and other aquatic resource values.

LR 3.2.2: All new authorized water rights-of-way would contain stipulations that address water conservation measures, including the installation of float values on tanks, water meters to record usage, installation of water-conserving fixtures, and appropriate reuse or reclamation of gray water.

Objective LR 3.3: Continue to recognize existing right-of-way grants, contracted rights, easements, and special use permits as valid uses.

Objective LR 3.4: Consider new access proposals to private lands through public lands and on a case-by-case basis to evaluate and mitigate adverse impacts to planning area resources. Mitigation measures could include rerouting access away from sensitive resources such as old-growth forests and Riparian Reserves.

4.7.6 Access

Goal LR 4: Acquire and maintain access to public lands to improve management efficiency and to facilitate multiple use and the public's enjoyment of these lands while minimizing impacts to adjoining private landowners.

Objective LR 4.1: Continue to provide access to all public lands within the KRNCA boundary.

Objective LR 4.2: Improve public access to public land outside the KRNCA boundary, whereever feasible.

Management Actions

LR 4.2.1: Identify and implement specific access improvement actions on an ongoing basis as opportunities arise.

Objective LR 4.3: Seek resolution to public access/private property issues by coordinating with willing landowners to acquire easements across private lands.

4.8 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS AND OTHER LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS (WIL)

4.8.1 Introduction

The following section outlines management of lands with wilderness values that were assessed under two separate processes. The first process was a one-time agency-wide study completed in 1988, prior to this planning effort. Under that process, Congress directed the BLM under FLPMA to inventory all Bureau lands for wilderness values and identify Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), to be placed under protective management until legislation could be enacted for formal wilderness designation. Two areas totaling 37,975 acres (Chemise Mountain and King Range) were designated as WSAs under this process. The goals, objectives, and actions relating to these lands are found in the "Wilderness Study Areas" sections below.

Under the second process, lands outside of designated WSAs are assessed during the RMP process to determine if they possess one or more wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, etc. Also, plan decisions can include a land use allocation requiring these lands to be managed to protect one or more wilderness characteristics during the life of the plan. The goals, objectives, and actions relating to these lands are found in the "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" sections below. The allocation used in this Proposed RMP to denote lands that would be managed for wilderness characteristics is the Backcountry Zone.

Management of lands with wilderness characteristics is part of BLM's multiple-use mandate, and is recognized within the spectrum of resource values and uses within the King Range. Lands with wilderness characteristics are defined for this RMP as areas:

- Having been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
- Having outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- Having at least five thousand acres of land or of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in unimpaired condition (5,000 acres can be in combination with adjoining WSAs).
- Potentially containing ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

These lands are managed for the use and enjoyment of area visitors and may be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use. In addition, they could augment multiple-use management of adjacent and nearby lands through the protection of watersheds and water yield, wildlife habitat, natural plant communities, and similar natural values.

Lands within the planning area were assessed as part of this RMP process for areas with wilderness characteristics, which were divided into identifiable subunits (see Figure 4-2). The wilderness characteristic units all adjoin the existing King Range and Chemise Mountain WSAs.

4.8.2 Wilderness Protection and Restoration

Goal WIL 1: Recognize that coastal lands with wilderness characteristics are rare in the continental U.S., and provide management that protects and restores these values in the KRNCA.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) Objectives and Management Actions:

Objective WIL 1.1: Manage the 37,975 acres of existing WSAs identified in the 1988 Wilderness EIS to protect wilderness values until Congressional designation as wilderness or release from WSA status.

Objective WIL 1.2: Incorporate five parcels totaling approximately 200 acres into the King Range WSA. All of these parcels were private inholdings that have been acquired since the Wilderness EIS was published in 1988. Any future lands acquired within the WSA boundaries would be automatically incorporated into the King Range WSA.

Objective WIL 1.3: Any lands within the planning area designated by Congress as wilderness would be incorporated into the Backcountry Zone and managed under the prescriptions for this zone and the specific direction of area wilderness legislation.

Wilderness Characteristic Assessment Units Objectives

Objective WIL 1.4: Manage all of units 2A, 2B, and the portion of unit 1H that lies within the Squaw Creek Watershed for their wilderness characteristics. These units would be incorporated into the Backcountry Zone to be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics.

Management Actions

WIL 1.4.1: Restore wilderness characteristics within the assessment units through abandoned road removal and stand treatments for forest naturalization.

Objective WIL 1.5: Actions included in this plan would be implemented so that they do not cause long-term, irreversible, or irretrievable impacts that would affect the future consideration of any of the units for wilderness characteristic protection; this includes all acreage within the proposed Mill Creek ACEC (see Chapter 3).

Rationale: The inclusion of units 2A, 2B, and part of 1H allows for a Backcountry Zone boundary that follows ridgetops, roads, and fire breaks, allowing for a mix of management actions and land use allocations that protect wilderness characteristics within the core of the King Range backcountry. The Squaw Creek portion of unit 1H was added to this acreage in the Proposed RMP since it contains old-growth forest and other wilderness characteristics. The proposed configuration of the Backcountry Zone provides for an interface of BLM lands outside of this zone where fuels reduction and other activities can be implemented to protect adjoining rural subdivisions from wildfire.

All of the wilderness characteristic units meet the criteria of visually appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, parts of many of the units have been affected by past timber harvesting and have suffered ecological damage. Retaining these units in the Frontcountry Zone would allow for more intensive forest and watershed restoration activities. The acreage proposed for management to protect wilderness characteristics in this plan is 38,833 acres, or 13,873 acres more than the 24,960 acres recommended by the BLM to Congress for wilderness designation in the 1988 Wilderness EIS.

4.8.3 Allowable Uses (AU)

WIL AU 1: Allowable uses and management actions for WSAa are outlined in the BLM's "Interim Management Policy (IMP) For Lands Under Wilderness Review" (H-8550-1).

WIL AU 2: Follow the guidelines identified in Appendix H in implementing administrative actions and determining allowable uses on lands that are recommended for management to protect wilderness characteristics (i. e. all lands identified in a above).

4.9 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (WSR)

4.9.1 Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) was enacted by Congress in 1968 to ensure that certain rivers with premier resource values are protected in their free-flowing condition. As part of the RMP process, a review was conducted in 2003 to evaluate all river segments in the KRNCA under the two step process of eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River (WSR) System (see Figure 4-3). A description of the evaluation process and proposed designations is located in Appendix D.

4.9.1.1 Summary of Study Recommendations

The study identified 28 stream segments within the planning area as eligible based on their free-flowing condition and the presence of at least one outstandingly remarkable value. Under the Proposed RMP, ten eligible river segments on seven different streams would be recommended as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. These include: South Fork (Segments A and B), North Fork, and Main Stem of Bear Creek; Big Creek; Big Flat Creek; Honeydew Creek; Gitchell Creek; Mattole River; and Mill Creek. The BLM would place all suitable river segments under protective management until a final decision regarding designation is made by Congress.[1] Preliminary classifications for all river segments would be as follows:

- **Recreational:** South Fork Bear Creek (segment south of Shelter Cove Road).
- **Scenic:** Mattole River and Estuary, Mill Creek, South Fork Bear Creek (segment north of Shelter Cove Road), North Fork Bear Creek.
- **Wild:** Main Stem Bear Creek, Big Creek, Big Flat Creek, Honeydew Creek, Gitchell Creek.

4.9.2 Wild and Scenic River Protection

Goal WSR 1: Protect the free-flowing nature and outstandingly remarkable values of all river segments determined suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Objective WSR 1.1: All suitable segments would be placed under protective status and management would adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Free-flowing Values:** The free-flowing characteristics of eligible river segments cannot be modified to allow stream impoundments, diversions, channelization, and/or rip-rapping to the extent the BLM is authorized under the law.
- **River-related Values:** Each segment would be managed to protect identified outstandingly remarkable values (subject to valid existing rights) and, to the extent practicable, such values would be enhanced.
- **Classification Impacts:** Management and development of the eligible river and its corridor cannot be modified, subject to valid existing rights, to the degree that its eligibility or tentative classification would be affected.

- All eligible segments would be placed under protective management until the Record of Decision is signed for the King Range RMP; the river would then be managed in accordance with management objectives as outlined in the plan document.

Management Actions

WSR 1.1.1: All proposed projects and land use authorizations within suitable wild and scenic river corridors would include a written analysis of impacts to the free-flowing values, river-related values, and classification as identified in the objectives above and the descriptions in Appendix D. No projects would be allowed, subject to valid existing rights, that impact Wild and Scenic River suitability.

4.9.3 Management of Non-Suitable Stream Segments

Goal WSR 2: Recognize that all streams in the King Range, although not suitable for Wild and scenic River designation, are critical components of the area's ecological systems. They would be managed to protect and enhance these values under the direction of other resource management sections of this RMP.

4.10 AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN/RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (ACEC)

4.10.1 Introduction

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are areas of public land where special management attention is required to protect important natural and/or cultural resource values. The ACEC designation indicates to the public that the BLM recognizes these significant (relevant and important) values, and has established special management measures to protect them. Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are a special category of ACEC designated to protect examples of typical or unusual ecological communities, associations, phenomena, characteristics, or natural features or processes for scientific and educational purposes. They are established and managed to protect ecological processes, conserve their biological diversity, and provide opportunities for observational activities associated with research and education. Areas may consist of diverse vegetative communities, wildlife habitat, unique geological formations, cultural resources, and/or other values.

4.10.2 ACEC Management

Goal ACEC 1: Manage current areas and designate new areas with important resource values and that require special management as ACECs.

Objective ACEC 1.1: Continue management of the 655-acre Mattole Estuary ACEC to protect significant archaeological sites, the fragile sand dune ecosystem, riparian areas, and wildlife values in the Mattole Estuary and coastal strand south to Sea Lion Gulch.

Management Actions

ACEC 1.1.1: The following supplemental rules would be incorporated into the Mattole ACEC:

- Firewood collecting would not be allowed in the Mattole Estuary.
- Use of motorized watercraft would not be allowed in the Mattole Estuary.
- Public lands north of Lighthouse Road and south of the Mattole River for a distance of one mile inland from the Mattole Campground would be closed to overnight camping. Public lands along Mattole Beach for 500 feet north and south of the Mattole Campground would also be closed to camping. Dispersed camping would continue to be allowed on other public lands. These distances may be changed as necessary to meet resource protection objectives for the ACEC, or recreation opportunity goals in the area surrounding the Mattole Campground.
- Dispersed camping would continue to be allowed along the access route identified in the Transportation section of the plan (Section 4.18). Barriers of natural materials (mainly driftwood) would be placed along the access route to allow a small number of dispersed camping locations, but to restrict vehicle and camping access from disturbing sensitive estuary resources and riparian areas. This site would not be designated as an overflow or dispersed campsite, but would be managed to allow continued use at a small number (5-10) of dispersed locations. These rules are further described in Appendix B.
- Commercial collection of special forest products would not be permitted.

Objective ACEC 1.2: Establish the Mill Creek Watershed ACEC to include all public lands (approximately 680 acres) in the Mill Creek watershed. The primary relevant and important features that would be protected by this designation are the water quality of this important anadromous fish stream/cold water tributary to the Mattole River, and the high quality remnant of low-elevation old-growth Douglas-fir forest. Any additional lands or interests in lands acquired by the BLM in the Mill Creek watershed would be automatically incorporated into the ACEC/RNA (see Figure 4-4).

Rationale: Special management attention is needed for the Mill Creek ACEC to protect the sensitive old-growth Douglas-fir forest and the important anadromous fish stream/cold water tributary that supports the only Coho salmon run in the Mattole River watershed.

Management Actions

ACEC 1.2.1: Cooperate and coordinate with local community groups to develop an activity level stewardship plan for the Mill Creek ACEC.

ACEC 1.2.2: The following supplemental rules would be incorporated into the Mill Creek ACEC. These rules will apply on public lands in the Mill Creek watershed (presently 680 acres) and are further described in Appendix B. Additional rules may be proposed for the area through the Activity Plan to be developed with local community participation.

- Day-use only (no overnight camping); no campfires; and pets must be on a leash.
- Commercial collection of special forest products is not permitted.

4.10.3 Research Natural Areas

Goal ACEC 2: Designate ACECs containing quality-type examples or unusual representations of resource values as Research Natural Areas.

Objective ACEC 2.1: Establish the Mill Creek Watershed ACEC as a RNA to represent a quality type example of the low elevation late successional Douglas-fir forest, and anadromous fish spawning stream.

Mill Creek ACEC looking north from Prosper Ridge, Mattole Valley in the distance.

4.11 AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND FISHERIES (AEF)

4.11.1 Introduction

The conditions of the streams in the KRNCA are a function of heavy and often intense rainfall upon steep, erodible, generally forested terrain. These conditions have led to a very high channel density on the landscape. For example, the Bear Creek watershed contains over fourteen miles of stream channel per square mile of land, which means that Bear Creek contains approximately 300 miles of stream channels. The great majority of these are ephemeral (flowing only in response to rainfall) or intermittent (not flowing year round), and only about fifteen miles of stream in Bear Creek support populations of salmon and steelhead. However, because the vast network of smaller streams collectively influence conditions in larger streams, protection of these stream networks influences habitat conditions and trends in downstream habitat occupied by listed Pacific salmonids. Thus, the KRNCA represents a unique ecosystem that is important to the survival and recovery of native species.

The KRNCA contains important habitat for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Relative to aquatic habitat, one of the most critical land allocations in the KRNCA are the vast network

of Riparian Reserves (RRs) designated under the Northwest Forest Plan. These RRs consist of lands along streams and unstable or potentially unstable areas. The RRs generally parallel the stream network but also include other areas necessary for maintaining hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological processes. The RR network has not yet been mapped for the entire KRNCA. Watersheds within the area would be mapped on an as-needed basis as an implementing action of this plan, using the location criteria contained in Appendix E. The Honeydew Creek watershed has been mapped and is shown in Figure 4-5 as an example of the extent of the RR network on KRNCA public lands. The Riparian and Aquatic Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) listed in Appendix E would be used to ensure that management activities and public uses in RRs do not retard or prevent attainment of management objectives (listed below), and to maintain productivity and resiliency of riparian and aquatic ecosystems and the species that depend on them.

4.11.2 Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems

Goal AEF 1: Restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems on public lands, and, to the extent possible, partner with other landowners to coordinate restoration efforts across watersheds.

Objective AEF 1.1: Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations, and communities are uniquely adapted.

Objective AEF 1.2: Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.

Objective AEF 1.3: Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.

Management Actions

AEF 1.3.1: Upslope sediment reduction measures would be focused on road decommissioning, landslide rehabilitation, and road drainage maintenance and upgrades.

Guidelines

AEF 1.3.1.1: Implementation of sediment reduction projects in KRNCA watersheds would be considered if:

- Project implementation could result in long-term improvement of habitat for native fauna, especially salmon and steelhead.
- An inventory and/or analysis of potential sediment sources within a watershed indicates that treatment of a particular site would be among the highest priorities within a watershed or of significant value for sediment reduction.
- Adequate access to the project site(s) exists for implementation and post-project monitoring.
- Project implementation would not substantially interfere with identified access to private lands, recreation facilities, fuel breaks, or other such necessary access.

Objective AEF 1.4: Maintain and restore the physical integrity of aquatic systems, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.

Management Actions

AEF 1.4.1: Instream habitat enhancement measures would be focused on creation of pool habitat, or improving pool habitat by addition of cover elements, increasing instream cover (large wood), and spawning habitat enhancement.

Guidelines

AEF 1.4.1.1: Implementation of instream habitat improvement projects in KRNCA streams would be considered if:

- Project implementation would provide beneficial habitat for salmon, steelhead, or other desired native species.
- Analysis has shown that the project would address habitat conditions limiting survival of target species at a particular life stage.
- Adequate access to the project site(s) exists for implementation and post-project monitoring.
- The project would not create a hazard for KRNCA visitors or other recreations.
- The project would comply with the Wild and Scenic River Act for all "suitable" stream segments.

4.11.3 Stream Habitat Conservation

Goal AEF 2: Restore and maintain the physical, chemical, and biological components of stream habitat so that each stream or stream reach supports a desired compliment of native species appropriate for the capability of each stream or stream reach. Thus, the stream habitat and water quality conditions for a small,

headwater stream may be quite different than conditions in large, salmon-bearing streams since the habitat capability and native fauna of these two types of stream are quite different.

Objective AEF 2.1: Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.

Management Actions

AEF 2.1.1: Same as AEF 1.4.1 above.

Guidelines

AEF 2.1.1.1: Same as AEF 1.4.1.1 above.

AEF 2.1.1.2: Implementation of enhancement projects in the Mattole Estuary would be considered if:

- Project implementation would provide beneficial habitat for salmon, steelhead, or other desired native species.
- Analysis has shown that the project would address habitat conditions limiting survival of target species at a particular life stage.
- The project would not create a hazard for KRNCA visitors or other recreationists.

Objective AEF 2.2: The Riparian and Aquatic Standards and Guidelines (Appendix E) from the Northwest Forest Plan would guide all ongoing or future proposed land management activities within the planning area.

4.11.4 Water Quality

Goal AEF 3: Maintain and restore habitat necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.

Objective AEF 3.1: Restore and maintain water temperatures that are supportive of cold water species. Water would generally be non-turbid except during storm events; contaminants would not be found at levels which would negatively impact native species. Water discharge would not be significantly effected by human activities (amount, duration, and timing). Water quality would remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.

Management Actions

AEF 3.1.1: Riparian Silviculture measures would be focused on planting native riparian species and thinning overstocked stands to enhance native species composition and to improve riparian function.

Guidelines

AEF 3.1.1.1: Implementation of riparian silviculture projects would be considered if:

- Project implementation would provide beneficial habitat for salmon, steelhead, or other desired native species.
- Analysis has shown that the project would address long-term recruitment of large woody debris, provide adequate stream shade, and input of organic matter.

AEF 3.1.2: Monitoring would be completed regularly to assess existing conditions of key indices and to detect trends over time. Monitoring would focus on water quality, habitat/channel condition, and biological indicators.

Guidelines

AEF 3.1.2.1: Implementation of stream, biotic, or watershed monitoring would be considered if:

- The outcome of monitoring would assist in implementing the Proposed RMP, recovery of listed species, or increasing the knowledge base of the resources.
- Storage, analysis, and reporting of monitoring data are planned prior to data collection.
- The impacts of monitoring would not substantially interfere with other goals and objectives contained in the RMP.
- Priority would be given to those streams which contain listed aquatic species.

Objective AEF 3.2: Exotic species would be absent or limited to the extent where they are not impacting native species.

Management Actions

Action AEF 3.2.1: Same as Action AEF 3.1.1 above.

Objective AEF 3.3: Human-caused migration barriers would be absent; in-channel large woody debris would be present at levels which promote diverse habitat conditions; riparian areas would provide adequate shade and potential for recruitment of future large woody debris; floodplains (where present) would be intact and regularly inundated with flood waters; streambed substrate would support habitat requirements of native fauna; and, the amount of sediment stored in stream channels would not substantially impact habitat quality for native species.

Management Actions

Action AEF 3.3.1: Same as Action AEV 3.1.1 above.

Guidelines

AEF 3.3.1.1: Implementation of stream, biotic, or watershed monitoring would be considered if:

- The outcome of monitoring would assist in implementing the Proposed RMP, recovery of listed species, or increasing the knowledge base of the resources.
- Storage, analysis, and reporting of monitoring data are planned prior to data collection.

- The impacts of monitoring would not substantially interfere with other goals and objectives contained in the RMP.
- Priority would be given to those streams which contain listed aquatic species.

Road decommissioning requires the use of heavy equipment.

Objective AEF 3.4 Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected. See also Goal, Objectives and Actions under LR-2 (Water Rights).

Objective AEF 3.5 Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.

Objective AEF 3.6 Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.

Management Actions

AEF 3.6.1: Riparian Silviculture measures would be focused on planting native riparian species and thinning overstocked stands to enhance native species composition and to improve riparian function.

Guidelines

AEF 3.6.1.1: Implementation of riparian silviculture projects would be considered if:

- Project implementation would provide beneficial habitat for salmon, steelhead, or other desired native species.
- Analysis has shown that the project would address long-term recruitment of large woody debris, provide adequate stream shade, and input of organic matter.
- Local impacts from any canopy removal would not result in significant alteration of summer water temperatures, sediment input, or long-term input in organic matter.

4.11.5 Allowable Uses (AU)

Allowable uses that could potentially affect aquatic habitat in the KRNCA will be guided by determining consistency with management objectives as well as the Riparian and Aquatic Standards and Guidelines (Appendix E), which are specific to ongoing or future proposed land management activities.

4.12 WILDLIFE (WDF)

4.12.1 Introduction

The proposed plan includes cooperative management with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to achieve, maintain, and enhance natural wildlife populations, protect habitat, prevent damage, and increase public education. Threatened and endangered species management would be in accordance with applicable Endangered Species Act of 1973 regulations (50CFR402) and BLM policy (6840 Manual, IM UT No. 97-66). The plan includes specific actions for six listed wildlife species with habitat occurring in the KRNCA:

- brown pelican (Federal Endangered)
- bald eagle (Federal Threatened, Federal Proposed for Delisting)
- western snowy plover (Federal Threatened)
- marbled murrelet (Federal Threatened)
- northern spotted owl (Federal Threatened)
- Steller's sea lion (Federal Threatened)

The plan also addresses other management issues involving management and monitoring of wildlife populations and the habitats they rely on. Each section below is broken down into two sub-parts, "Threatened and Endangered Species," and "Other Wildlife of Special Interest." The BLM does not have direct jurisdiction over wildlife populations, but is the primary manager of habitat on public lands. Therefore, this section must be looked at in combination with other applicable sections, and in particular the Section 4.13, "Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation," to obtain a full description of BLM management of the planning area for wildlife. Management actions for both threatened and endangered species, as well as all other species apply to all management zones.

4.12.2 Threatened and Endangered Species

Goal WDF 1: Cooperate with federal, state, and local partners to minimize or eliminate the need for additional listing of species under the Endangered Species Act and to contribute to the recovery of the species already listed as such. The BLM will take measures to promote the recovery and conservation of all special status animal species within the King Range.

Brown Pelicans

Objective WDF 1.1: Disturbance at roosting sites frequented by brown pelicans would be minimized, and roost sites on the offshore rocks would be protected by working cooperatively with the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM).

Management Actions

WDF 1.1.1: Enforce provisions of the CCNM plan restricting access to roosting-nesting sites frequented by brown pelicans.

WDF 1.1.2. Use publically distributed materials to interpret the significance of offshore rocks to marine birds, seals and sea lions, and other marine life.

Bald Eagles

Objective WDF 1.2: Enhance and expand existing habitat should bald eagles colonize in the King Range area.

Management Actions

WDF 1.2.1: Healthy populations of anadromous fish (an important component of eagles' diet) are encouraged by actions described in the Aquatic Ecosystems and Fisheries (AEF) section of this document.

WDF 1.2.2: Major watercourses would be managed to retain large snags for perch sites and potential nesting sites as noted in applicable objectives and actions contained in the AEF section of this document.

Western Snowy Plovers

Objective WDF 1.3: Maintain suitable nesting habitat for nesting/wintering plovers if/when the population responds to meet goals in the recovery plan and re-colonize the area.

Management Actions

WDF 1.3.1: Continue monthly breeding season surveys at the Mattole River mouth and at gravel bars on the lower Mattole.

WDF 1.3.2: If plovers recolonize the area, consult with the FWS to determine appropriate conservation measures.

Marbled Murrelets

Objective WDF 1.4: Preserve existing potential nesting habitat and accelerate the development of late-successional forest characteristics in stands that have been previously harvested. Given the lack of murrelet detections in spite of extensive surveys, no other management objective is considered appropriate.

Management Actions

WDF 1.4.1: Conduct periodic (every five years minimum) surveys in areas of suitable habitat to determine if occupancy has occurred.

WDF 1.4.2: Management actions taken for the protection and enhancement of late-successional forest stands and late-successional forest characteristics in younger stands would be consistent with management objectives for all old-growth associated species.

Northern Spotted Owls

Objective WDF 1.5: Protect existing northern spotted owl habitat and increase the availability of suitable habitat for nesting and roosting.

Management Actions

WDF 1.5.1: Project level assessments and consultation with the FWS would be completed for activities potentially impacting spotted owls.

Objective WDF 1.6: Establish sufficient northern spotted owl habitat to attract and maintain twenty breeding pairs of spotted owls in the KRNCA. This goal is consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan objectives to restore and enhance late successional habitat within the range of the northern spotted owl.[1]

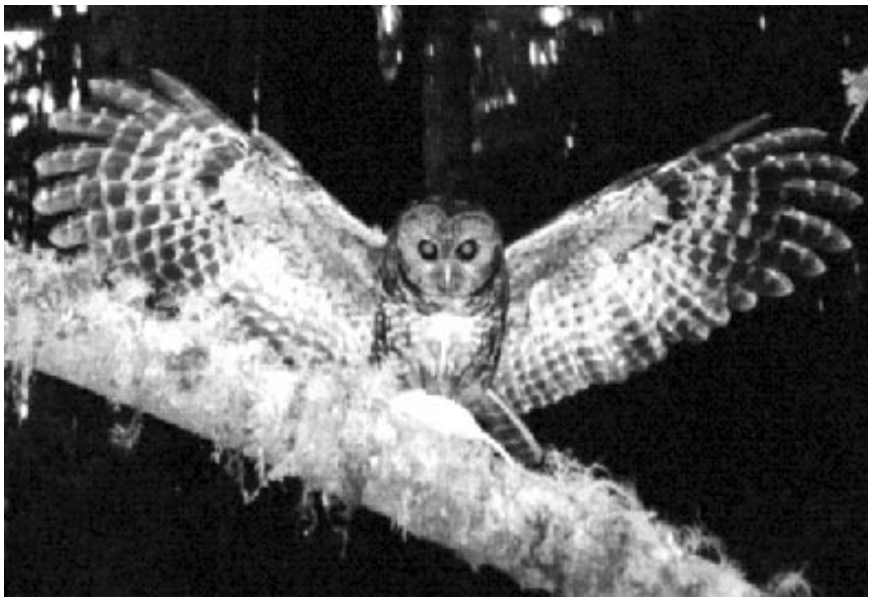
[1] Regional Perspective for owl recovery: The conservation and recovery strategies for the northern spotted owl are founded in the basic tenets of conservation biology as described by Thomas (ISC 1990).

1. Species well-distributed across their range are less prone to extinction.
2. Large blocks of habitat, containing multiple pairs are superior to small blocks.
3. Blocks of habitat that are close together are better than blocks far apart.
4. Habitat that is less fragmented is better than fragmented habitat
5. Habitat between blocks facilitates dispersal when it more closely resembles suitable habitat

All iterations of owl recovery planning include a system of designated "reserves" capable of sustaining appropriate numbers of interacting owl populations (ideally 20 pair areas) spaced across a general landscape (matrix) in a configuration which provides for an interchange (emigration and immigration) of dispersing owls among these reserves. Each planning iteration has also described recovery of the species in the California Coastal Province as being limited by the lack of federal ownership, and thus the lack of capability of any strictly federal strategy to provide adequate habitat over time. A planning group assembled by the California Board of Forestry (BOF) attempted in the early 1990s to develop a Habitat Conservation Strategy which could be applied to private lands to augment the federal strategy in California. The preferred alternative presented to the BOF included a comprehensive approach to establishing "Multiple Pair Areas" (MPAs) on private lands in a configuration which would mimic the size and spacing of reserves in the federal strategy. In this alternative, in the southern portion of the California range of the owl, it was found that not only were the opportunities to maintain pairs on federal lands limited south of federal holdings in the South Fork Eel River and the KRNCA, but the opportunities to establish MPAs on private lands were limited as well. This was due to the increasingly fragmented nature of owl habitat in generally a northwest to southeast gradient extending south roughly from the Jackson State Forest on the west and the northern Mendocino National Forest boundary on the east. The BOF

Management Actions

WDF 1.6.1: Monitoring known owl sites and periodic surveys of the suitable habitat in the KRNCA will help determine trends in owl activity center numbers, locations, and productivity.



The KRNCA can potentially support up to twenty pairs of northern spotted owls.
Source: Amy Krause, BLM

Steller's Sea Lions

Objective WDF 1.7: Minimize disturbance to Steller's sea lions at haul-out sites.

Management Actions

WDF 1.7.1: Haul-out sites on the offshore rocks would be protected by working cooperatively with the California Coastal National Monument to enforce access limitations to offshore rocks.

WDF 1.7.2: Use appropriate publicly distributed materials to interpret the significance of offshore rocks to marine birds, seals and sea lions, and other marine life.

strategy necessarily abandoned the MPA approach in this fragmented southern oak-hardwood zone adopting a strategy of managing for individual pairs wherever they occur with a goal of simply maintaining the range of the owl in this region.

The analyses of owl recovery opportunities all underscore the importance of the King Range as the southernmost federal holding of coastal habitat in the California range of the species with potential to maintain a significant number of interacting pairs. Currently the King Range provides habitat for fifteen owl activity centers with reasonably good connectivity to owl populations in the South Fork Eel, Gilham Butte, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Analyses of habitat capabilities within the King Range indicate high potential for establishing additional activity centers on acquired lands which were previously harvested, particularly in the Bear Creek and Honeydew Creek watersheds. These gains would be achieved over time as in-growth and management of these stands promote forest structure suitable for owl nesting.

4.12.3 Other Wildlife of Special Management Interest

Goal WDF 2: Maintain or enhance existing populations of native species for their protection and conservation and to increase the knowledge base of these species.

Migratory Birds

Objective WDF 2.1: Protect and enhance migratory bird habitat as described in applicable objectives and management actions found in Sections 4.11 and 4.13, Aquatic Ecosystems and Fisheries, and Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation, respectively; and according to the management actions listed below.

Management Actions

WDF 2.1.1: Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on migratory bird resources when conducting surface and vegetation disturbing projects.

WDF 2.1.2: Restore and enhance habitat for migratory birds to conditions that existed prior to major mechanical landscape treatments (i.e., post World War II tractor logging).

WDF 2.1.3: Prevent or abate pollution or detrimental alteration of environmental characteristics of benefit to migratory birds.

WDF 2.1.4: Design an "all bird" monitoring plan to provide long-term data regarding bird populations and their habitats. The design of this monitoring program would be such that it can be implemented opportunistically as a part of other survey efforts, or as a stand-alone effort. Basic components of this plan would include the use of bird point counts or area searches (Ralph et al. 1993) with the intent of gathering statistically valid samples to assess the long-term effectiveness of management activities. Collaboration with other entities such as Partners in Flight, Forest Service research personnel, or graduate students would be encouraged for this monitoring effort.

Rationale: Of the approximately 900 migratory birds occurring in the U.S., 122 are selected species of management concern at the national level, known as the FWS Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern (MNBMC). Birds on the MNBMC list known to occupy the King Range (either presently or historically) include northern goshawk, white-tailed kite, peregrine falcon, Vaux's swift, black swift, rufous hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, red-breasted sapsucker, olive-sided flycatcher, Pacific slope flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, and California thrasher.

Standards: Guidelines for the management of migratory birds are in the Executive Order (13186) for Conservation of Migratory Birds (January 11, 2001).

Intertidal Zone Species

Objective WDF 2.2: Manage visitors to limit impacts to the intertidal zone to maintain the natural diversity of intertidal organisms in this special habitat. Work cooperatively with CDFG and NOAA Fisheries in the management of marine life.

Management Actions

WDF 2.2.1: Educate visitors to the intertidal habitat to help reduce their impact on species not covered by existing fishing and marine mammal protection regulations and build an understanding of the existing regulations.

Rationale: Although the intertidal habitats are outside of BLM's jurisdiction, access points to tidepools and other intertidal areas are on public lands, and tide pools are a major attraction for visitors to the KRNCA.

Wildlife Introductions

Objective WDF 2.3: Maintain, restore, and enhance historic levels of wildlife species native to the King Range. Non-native species would not be reintroduced or encouraged. Wildlife introductions are not a stated objective, but BLM would work cooperatively to assess the suitability and support reintroduction efforts by CDFG, Fish and Wildlife Service, and other entities where such efforts are consistent with this objective.

Management Actions

WDF 2.3.1: Continue casual monitoring of the reestablished Roosevelt elk population in the southern King Range, including its interaction with human populations outside of the King Range, in coordination with the CDFG and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

Herpetofauna

Objective WDF 2.4: Restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat suitable for appropriate native species. Restore natural ecosystems and avoid disturbance to known populations during project activities.

Management Actions

WDF 2.4.1: Refer to and follow the aquatic and riparian management actions described in the Aquatic Ecosystems and Fisheries section of this plan.

Rationale: The southern torrent salamander, foothill yellow-legged frog, northern red-legged frog, tailed frog, and northwestern pond turtle are state and/or federal species of concern that potentially occur in the King Range.

Game Species

Objective WDF 2.5: Host a natural complement of species at population levels consistent with the habitat management goals outlined elsewhere in this document, and in a manner consistent with CDFG regulations. Provide a mix of habitats necessary to support diverse and appropriate population levels of wildlife game species.

Management Actions

WDF 2.5.1: Refer to and the follow specific management actions found in the Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation section (Section 4.13).